

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 5, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
FROM: RICHARD C. TUFARO *RC*  
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DECLASSIFICATION OF  
INTERCEPTED JAPANESE MESSAGES  
FROM WORLD WAR II

[REDACTED]

STAT

On May 25, 1972 the Department of Defense received a request from Clay Blair for declassification of certain documents related to the Japanese code breaking operation in World War II. A copy of that request is attached at Tab A.

In June, 1972 this office was advised that [REDACTED] prohibited the release of any material related to these activities regardless of time. On that basis we asked that the CIA conduct a review [REDACTED] to bring the directive in line with Executive Order 11652 and the implementing NSC Directive of May 17, 1972.

STAT

STAT

Earlier this year we were advised that a study group was reviewing [REDACTED] and would probably complete its review by June. In the meantime our office has received a further letter of inquiry on the status of his declassification request from Clay Blair.

We are advised by the Department of Defense that no review of the documents requested has been initiated during the past eight months since [REDACTED]. We are further advised that on the basis of samples seen of the documents requested at least 95% of the intercepted messages, and perhaps more, can be declassified and released if a change in existing regulations will permit a classification review.

We would appreciate your taking action either to issue an interim revision of the portion [REDACTED] which is blocking review of this declassifica-

tion request or to assign individuals from the CIA staff with authority to review the requested documents for declassification. Action on this matter has been unnecessarily long and, therefore, we should make every effort to see that it receives prompt attention.

We would appreciate hearing your suggestions on how to proceed in this area.